

A RESOLUTION By Councilmember Jim Maddox  
AS AMENDED By Finance/Executive Committee

02-R-1579

A Resolution requesting that the Georgia State Legislature, at its 2003 Legislative Session, **amend Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph 8** of the Georgia Constitution so as to authorize municipalities with Special Entertainment Districts, the authority to institute pari-mutuel betting and/or casino gambling; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, since September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the State of Georgia has experienced a decrease in its sales tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the decrease in sales tax revenues has resulted in cities across the state having less revenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta, the capital City and the City with the greatest tourist and convention base, has been particularly hard hit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta faced other shortfalls associated with its 2002 Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta has been forced to raise ad valorem taxes and lay off hundreds of employees; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta is facing another austere budget for the year 2003; and

WHEREAS, while the City of Atlanta is a major entertainment center in the Southeast, it does not feature casino gambling or pari-mutuel betting; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that thousands of people from the Atlanta area travel weekly to venues that feature casinos and other games of chance; and

WHEREAS, AirTran has two round trips daily to Biloxi, and ASA has seven (7) from the Atlanta area, and tour operators estimate that twenty (20) or more buses with at least fifty (50) passengers each make the round trip every weekend, and according to the Executive Director of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau, thousands more come by car; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that in 2001, three hundred and one thousand (301,000) people from metro Atlanta spent at least one night in Biloxi or nearby Gulfport; and

WHEREAS, those dollars spent for lodging and entertainment in Biloxi or Gulfport would greatly boost the Atlanta and Georgia economies.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA** that the Georgia State Legislature, during its 2003 Legislative Session, is hereby requested to amend Article 1, Section 2, Paragraph 8 of the Georgia Constitution so as to authorize municipalities with Special Entertainment Districts to institute pari-mutuel betting and/or casino gambling.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this request be made part of the City of Atlanta's 2003 Legislative Package.